Fairbury Echoes Museum 2025 Newsletter

This year has been another busy and productive one for the Museum..

January
Dale Maley published a story about the rare items at the Museum for Kent Casson's FairburyNews.net.

Dale started to tuck point the foundation. The old 1894 mortar had turned to white powder.

Margaret Claudon, descendant of Fairbury Doctor Dan Brewer generously donated $5,000 to the Museum.

February
Dale published another story on FairburyNews.net about recent interesting items added to the Museum.

Dale continued tuck pointing the foundation and sorting junk to be removed.

March
Dale finished tuck pointing the foundation on March 28th. Took 28 bags with 80 pounds of mortar each for the job (2,240 Lbs)

April
Dale hauled several pick-up truck loads of junk out of the basement, including 11 gallons of paint from 2002. All items were properly disposed of.

Dale added an electrical utility outlet in the basement. With John Slagel's help, he added an outlet in the north end of the rental side of the building.

April
Dale gave a tour to the Fairbury Chautauqua group. They really enjoyed touring the museum.

May
Dale and Mary Catherine swapped positions with Dale becoming President and Mary Catherine Vice-President. Many thanks go to Mary Catherine for her many years of leading our organization!

Dale started renovating the bathroom on May 28th. The main goal was to replace the temporary ceiling panels with a new suspended ceiling design.

June
Dale finished renovating the bathroom on June 5th. A new suspended ceiling with improved LED lighting and an exhaust fan were added. The room color was brightened by painting the old brown paneling white.

Dale and John Slagel mowed the neighbor's lot a couple of times during the Summer months to give it a better appearance.

With the assistance of Roger Kutzner, Native American artifact expert from the Liv. Co. Historical Society, Dale gave a presentation about Native Americans in our area to a packed room at the Dominy Library. Board members made and served up great refreshments!

Margaret Claudon donated another $2,500 to the Museum.

The Clubs & Organizations rotating exhibit completed its run.

July
Dale studied the design of the Fairbury Echoes Museum interior and used that information to design and build a new Thomas F. Googerty exhibit room at the Strevell House in Pontiac for the Livingston County Historical Society.

Dale removed all the climbing ivy on the back wall of the museum, and treated the roots with 80 pounds of salt. Hopefully, this ivy has been removed permanently.

August
Dale gave talk August 19 in Forrest to Livingston County Retired Teachers about **Life before the Railroads.**

September
Dale improved how vintage Fairbury yardsticks were attached to the wall, so they will never fall down again.

Dale also made special wood holders to keep 2 very fragile artifacts from falling off the wall and breaking.

Dale donated $3,000 to the Museum and Caterpillar matched his donation, so the total donation amount was $6,000.

October
Betsy Howell, from the State of Washington, shipped a grocery size box of extremely rare John Virgin family related materials back to the museum. These artifacts had traveled to about 6 states over 115 years before they returned back home to Fairbury. Dale has analyzed all the rare artifacts and future stories and presentations will be given about these very rare Fairbury items.

The Coal Mining and Railroads exhibit was installed in the rotating exhibit room.

November
The City of Fairbury and a local plumber eliminated the shared water line and installed a dedicated water supply line for the Museum.

Dale spoke on Kent Casson's radio show and promoted visiting the Museum to see the new Coal Mining exhibit.

December
The Gibson City locksmith changed the inside deadbolts on our 2 exterior doors to turn knobs.

Web Site
Dale maintained the web site and added many links to Fairbury historical information. Our web site averages 20 visitors per day over the last month.

2026
We want to thank Judy Smith for her many years of service as our Museum Coordinator! Judy will be retiring in 2026.

For our June presentation, we are planning on covering the 150th Anniversary of the Fairbury Fair.

Many thanks to Diane Pawlowski for continuing to develop our excellent rotating displays and processing our new donated artifacts.

Thanks also go to our Board Members for filling in for Judy when she has other commitments.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!